

## A RESOLUTION



Councilmember Anne Fauver

A Resolution to support **HR 1059 the Military Readiness Act** that will replace the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy with a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation; to respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President to sign the Military Readiness Enhancement Act; and for other purposes

WHEREAS, in 1993 Congress passed and the President signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-160), that created the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; and

WHEREAS, members of the gay community have served honorably in the Armed Forces throughout United States history and continue to serve with distinction on active duty, including in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Representative Martin Meehan (D-MA) has introduced HR 1059, the **Military Readiness Enhancement Act** in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office has found that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy led to the discharge of over 10,000 service members in its first ten years, including nearly 800 with "critical skills", of which 322 were linguists, in particular 54 Arabic and 9 Farsi translators, vitally important positions to intelligence gathering and in critical shortage, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$200 million; and

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces are currently unable to meet their own recruiting goals, while at the same time they are preventing highly qualified and patriotic gay Americans from serving solely because of their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the majority of American citizens – as reflected in multiple, recent public opinion polls – support keeping trained and skilled openly gay service members in the military.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** that it supports House Resolution 1059, the **Military Readiness Act** that is presently before the Congress.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress is hereby respectfully urged to pass, and the President is respectfully urged to sign House Resolution 1059, the **Military Readiness Act**.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to President George W. Bush and to all members of the United States Congress.